

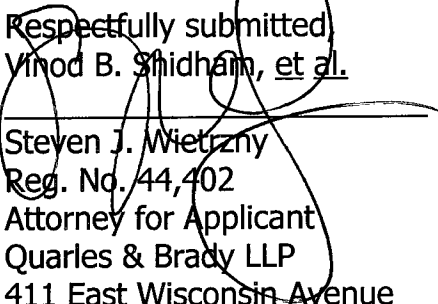
REMARKS

Claims 40-58 were previously pending in the present application and were variously rejected as obvious in light of a collection of prior art references of record. The amendments to claims 40, 42, 44, 47-51 and 55 (and cancellation of claims 45-46) presented herein are being submitted in response to these rejections, and are believed to clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art of record. The disclosure of the present application provides sufficient support for the claim amendments, especially in the Figs. 1, 3, 10, 15 and 16 of the drawings as well as paragraphs 46, 51, 55 and 58 of the specification.

As mentioned in the above Interview Summary, after reviewing a copy of the proposed amended claims on the day of the telephone interview, the Examiner indicated favorable treatment of the claims in light of the art of record. Consequently, the claim amendments will not be supported herein by argument other than to say that the claims as now stated recite a sample passageway configuration that allows for specimens to travel up into the biopsy device essentially through the long, central axis of the device and deposited down into the collection well. This configuration provides the anti-reflux features previously noted by applicant and permits a balanced device that is easy and intuitive to handle during the repetitive probing of a biopsy.

Allowance of these claims is thus respectfully requested. The above amendments do not change the claim count in any way, and thus no fee is believed due for consideration of this timely filed response. Any fees deemed necessary for this amendment should be charged to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Dated: 8/30/2007

Respectfully submitted,
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